15th March 1929]

Working of the Bellary sheep farm.

*1734 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the Department of Agriculture established the Bellary sheep farm and with what purpose;

(b) the number of places it has been shifted to since its establishment;

(c) the improvements carried out in the sheep during this period;

(d) the number of improved rams and ewes that have been sold to the public or otherwise made available for public benefit in each of the last nine years; and

(e) the cost of maintaining this farm for each of the last nine years?

A.—(a) The farm was first established at Hagari in 1912 with the following objects:—

(1) to evolve a breed of white sheep;
(2) to improve the quality and yield of the wool;
(3) to increase the body weight of the animal; and
(4) to test the local belief that the black sheep are more hardy than the white.

(b) Three places, Bantanahal, Hagari and Hosur.

(c) By careful selection in breeding four pure white ewes have been evolved and it is expected that one or two white rams will be obtained eventually which will increase the proportion of pure whites very quickly. Considerable progress has been achieved in the direction of wool yield and development of carcase and a strain carrying wool in quantities far in excess of the average as well as possessing the most desirable flesh forming carcase has been evolved. Though no mill tests were made regarding the quality of the wool it is worthy of note that the farm wool fetched Rs. 17-4-0 per maund when the local clip was being sold at Rs. 6 per maund. Incidentally the popular belief that black sheep are more hardy than the whites has also been verified to be true though the wool of the white ones is finer and fetches a higher price.

(d) The Government have no information in regard to the sheep sold prior to the transfer of the farm to Hosur. The appended statement furnishes the number of animals sold from Hosur.

Year.	Rams.	Ewes.	Wether hoggs.	Total.
1925–26	18	...	...	18
1926–27	24	26	6	56
1927–28	28	14	12	54
1928–29	34	31	9	74
Total ...	104	71	27	202

NOTE.—Wether hoggs are young ram lambs castrated before they are sheared. Those sold were black and unsuitable for our breeding purposes.

(e) The Government have no information as no separate accounts are being maintained for the sheep farm.

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Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" May I know that in view of the fact that the climate of Bellary and Hosur are different, whether the sheep originally taken from Bellary have changed ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I do not think so. The Hosur farm is under an expert."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" May I know whether any arrangement has been made to improve the sheep in Bellary itself which is noted for sheep ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The chief difficulties as far as I understand are the scarcity of good water-supply and the restricted grazing areas. These were the points that were considered at the time when the transfer of the farm to Hosur was made."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether in the Kudligi taluk of the Bellary district there are huge forests suitable for grazing purposes ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I do not know, Sir."

Industries

Development of cottage industries in Kistna district.

* 1735 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the survey of cottage industries of the Kistna district has been completed ; and

(*b*) if so, what are the conclusions arrived at by the Government as regards the development of cottage industries in Kistna district ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government have not yet received the report of the survey of the district from the Director of Industries.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know in what industries this survey was made ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" All the industries."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" All cottage industries ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Government industrial concerns.

* 1736 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of industrial concerns under Government management ;
(*b*) the nature of each ;
(*c*) where they are situated ;
(*d*) the capital invested on each ;
(*e*) when they were started ;
(*f*) the total gain or loss up to date ;
(*g*) the future prospects ; and
(*h*) whether it is desired to continue or close up ?